I saw another treeshrew at our office in Saiha (22° 29' 15.4674" N; 92° 59' 8.16" E) on September 24, 2009, at 15:00 hrs. It had stopped raining and the sky had cleared. The treeshrew moved around young mango trees and shrubs about 3 m from the wall of our office in the middle of a primarily residential locality at the Saiha district headquarters. I saw it pushing plastic trash that lay around, presumably in search of food, and was also able to photograph it. I understand this is the only confirmed photographic record of the species in the wild from southern Mizoram.

Zonunmawia and Pradhan (2004) and Anon. (2006) did not list it. However, the treeshrew has been described in Reginald Lorrain's Seminal Mara (local language in Saiha) dictionary as '*Zyu-si* - shrew mouse' (Lorrain 1912), implying its presence in the landscape.

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3. CONGREGATION PATTERN OF RED JUNGLEFOWL *GALLUS GALLUS* IN DUDHWA NATIONAL PARK, UTTAR PRADESH, INDIA

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Dudhwa National Park (DNP) is situated on the Indo-Nepal border (28° 18'-28° 42' N; 80° 28'-80° 27' E) in Nigahsan subdivision of Lakhimpur-Kheri district of Uttar Pradesh. The area falls under the Terai-Bhabar biogeographic subdivision of the Upper Gangetic Plain (7A), biogeographic classification of Rodgers and Panwar (1988). In 1977, the DNP was declared as a national park with a core zone of 490 sq. km and a buffer zone of 124 sq. km.

The Red Junglefowl (RJF) *Gallus gallus* is distributed along the foothills of Himalayas from Myanmar to north-western India, extending southward into the hills of peninsular India (Ali and Ripley 1987). It also occurs in tropical and subtropical habitats in southern China and South-east Asia, and has been introduced at several places (Sullivan 1991). To the north its distribution is limited by the Himalayan mountain range (Collias and Collias 1967). Red Junglefowl is common in DNP and occurs in different habitats, such as sal forest, mixed forest and teak forest (Javed and Rahmani 2000). Data on flocking composition of Red Junglefowl were collected from December 2005 to June 2007 in DNP, with an intensive study area of Dudhwa and Sonaripur ranges. Data was collected using vehicular transect, foot transect and in opportunistic records during the study period. A total of 635 individuals of the Red Junglefowl were seen during study period comprising 204 groups, out of which 428 individuals were seen in summer and 207 in winter. Chicks were also observed (n = 4) during May 2006 and June 2007 in sal forest only. Overall, the number of males were higher than the females (308 males to

300 females), in summer females were more in number than males (90 males:98 females) as compared to winter (220 males:200 females). The overall male to female ratio was 102:100 with 110:100 in winter and 91:100 in summer. Our results contradict the previous study (Javed and Rahmani 2000), where observed male to female ratio was 0.75:1.0 (n = 465) with 0.90:1.0 (n = 48) in winter and 0.72:1.0 (n = 417) in summer, but favours the congregation pattern observed by Collias and Collias (1967) in other moist deciduous forests in India. Maximum flock size of 11 birds was observed in sal forest both in winter and summer. However, Javed and Rahmani (2000) observed a bigger flock size of 20 individuals in winter in the DNP. Overall flock size was found to be 3.14 ± 0.14 S.E. Mean flock size was highest in winter (3.32 ± 0.18 S.E.) as compared to summer (2.84 ± 0.23 S.E.) and the difference was not significant. Among different habitats, mean flock size was highest at forest edges (3.24 ± 0.14 S.E., n = 29) followed by grassland (3.22 ± 0.53 S.E., n = 22), sal forest (3.21 ± 0.23 S.E., n = 84), mixed forest (3.08 ± 0.27 S.E., n = 46) and teak forest (2.76 ± 0.32 S.E., n = 21), and the difference was not significant. During the study on three occasions, Red Junglefowl were found copulating with the domesticated varieties found near human habitations in Dudhwa range. Thus, supporting the hypothesis put forth by Peterson and Brisbin (1998) that Red Junglefowl have hybridized with domesticated forms and that the hybrid genes have introgressed into wild populations, thereby contaminating the wild gene pool. Although, Kaul *et al.* (2004) observed 63 Red Junglefowl in different zoos of India, and concluded that all the birds have physical characteristics of a true junglefowl and considered them as true. Thus, we recommend a detailed genetic study of wild population not only in Dudhwa, but in the entire distribution range to check the contaminated level in true genetic traits of Red Junglefowl in the wild.

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4. AN UNUSUAL CASE OF MOULTING IN AN INDIAN FLAP-SHELL TURTLE *LISSEMYS PUNCTATA* (LACEPÉDE, 1788)

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On January 01, 2008, I procured a live specimen of an Indian Flap-shell Turtle *Lissemys punctata* from a fish market at Chetla road, Kolkata, West Bengal. As the species is protected under Schedule I of the Indian Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972, the specimen was kept in a Snake Park for observation.

The turtle was kept in a tub (61cm in diameter and 15 cm in depth) with little water and *Ipomoea aquatica*. The turtle at times came out of the tub and moved freely in the room, preferably in darker places. On February 25, 2008, it disappeared and could not be found anywhere. On October 28, 2008 (almost 8 months later) the turtle reappeared and was found crawling on the floor. The turtle appeared to have survived without food and water during this period. Flap-shelled turtles are adapted to long periods of drought (Grazimek 2003) and are able to withstand prolonged starvation, and it was reported that a captive specimen lived for 2 years without food (Daniel 2002).